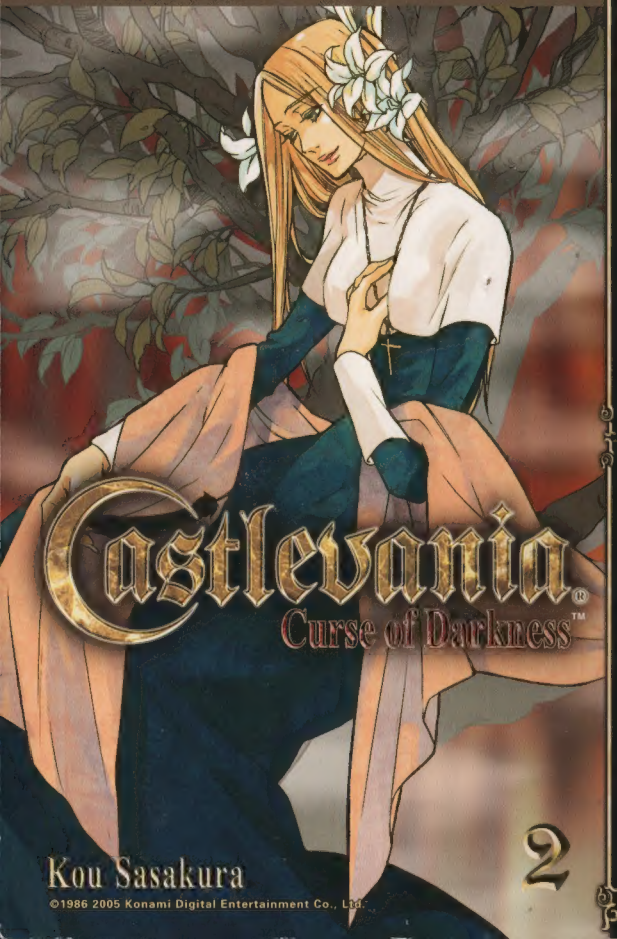
BASED ON THE HIT VIDEO GAME!



# Castlevania®
## Curse of Darkness™

2

Kou Sasakura

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TOKYOPOP

Castlevania: Curse of Darkness

Kou Sasakura

2

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# Castlevania®
## Curse of Darkness™

The epic battle between good and evil continues. Bearing the weight of his past on his shoulders, Hector carries on with his quest for redemption. Leaving Rosalee's house, he isolates himself from human contact, hoping to find the strength to do what is right. As he looks back on his life with revulsion and disgust, Hector is set upon by Isaac and a bloody battle is waged with the fate of humanity hanging in the balance!

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TEEN
AGE 13+

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MAY INCLUDE:
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MILD GORE

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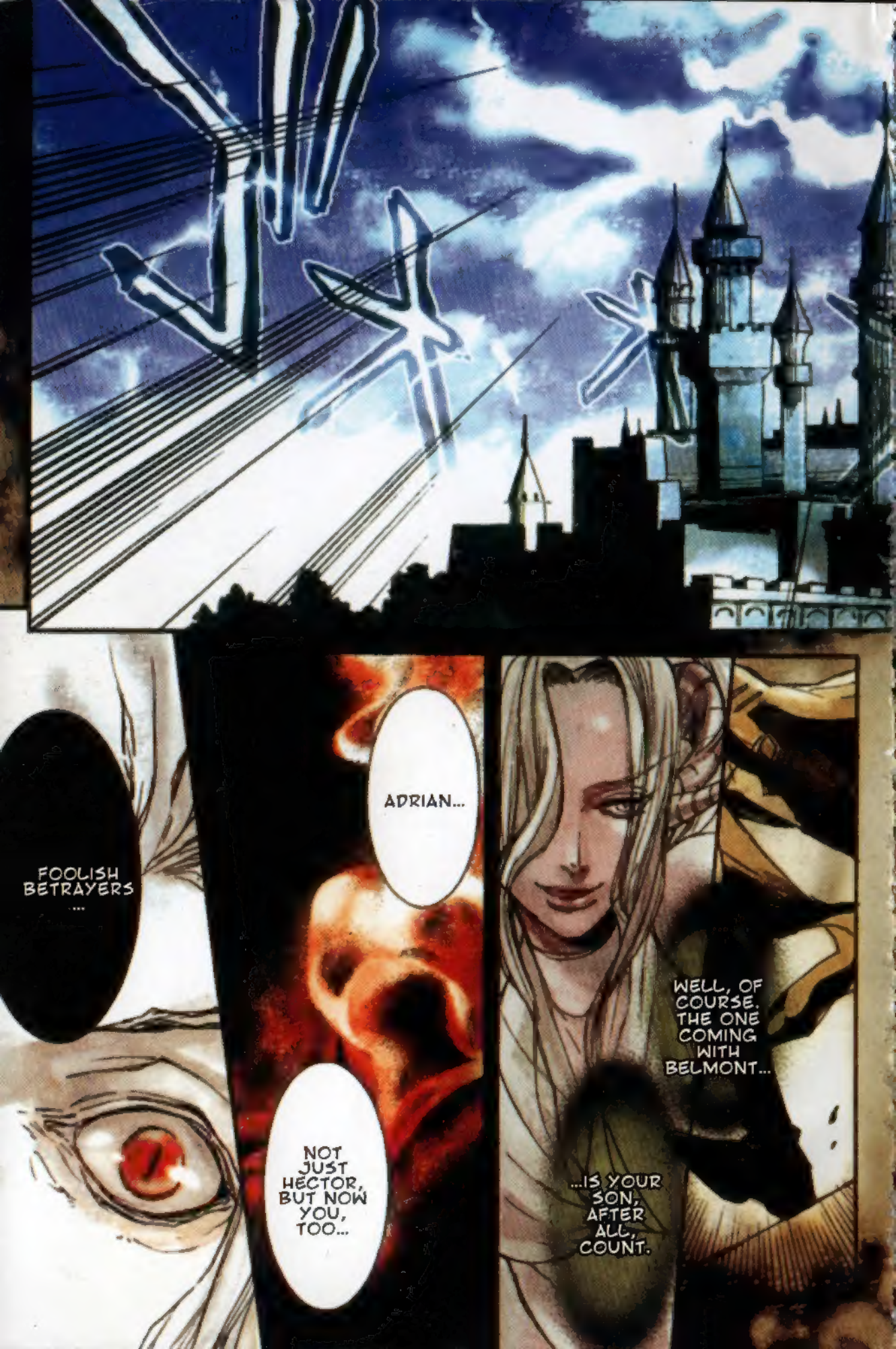
BELMONT HAS COME.
I NEVER THOUGHT THE HALL WOULD FALL SO SOON...
IT WAS BELMONT.
THE GOD OF DEATH HAS PERISHED!
HOW COULD THIS BE?


FOOLISH BETRAYERS ...
ADRIAN...
NOT JUST HECTOR, BUT NOW YOU, TOO...
WELL, OF COURSE. THE ONE COMING WITH BELMONT...
...IS YOUR SON, AFTER ALL, COUNT.

YOU SHALL LEARN, AT GREAT COST TO YOU...
...MY SORROW AND WRATH!!
AND GOD, AS WELL!
HUMANS WHO BETRAY ME...
...AS WELL AS THIS WORLD!
YOU SHALL BE CURSED!

# Castlevania®
## Curse of Darkness

**Vol. 2**

**By**
**Kou Sasakura**

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

***Castlevania: Curse of Darkness - Volume 2***

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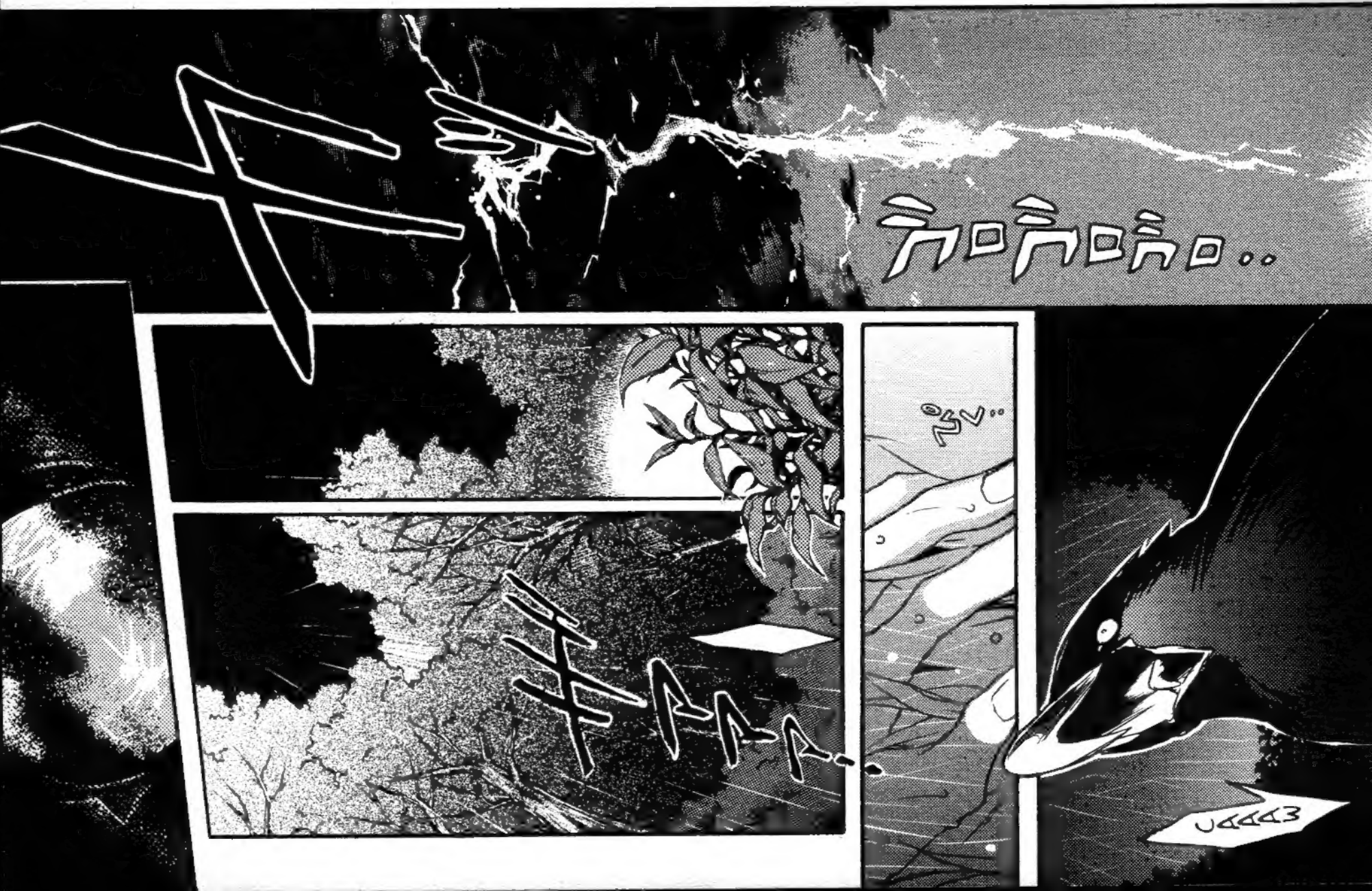
*Kou Sasakura*

Castlevania Curse of Darkness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ピカーッ
ピシャ..
ゴォォォ

# Chapter 3: Showdown

ハア
……

IT'S... RAINING.
THE SKY WAS SO CLEAR UNTIL A MOMENT AGO...
WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM, ROSALEE?
.....

I HAVE A...BAD FEELING.
I CAN'T EXPRESS IT WELL, BUT...
...I FEEL SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS STILL ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
IT'S AN AWFUL FEELING.
ODD.
WHEN THAT TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED ONLY A MOMENT AGO...
I
...WHERE DID YOU GO...
...HECTOR?

Y--
YOU...! WHAT'RE YOU...?
WHAT?
IF IT'S ABOUT THAT DOG, JUST CALL SOME HUMANS OVER IN THE MORNING. HAVE THEM CLEAN IT UP

THEY'VE PROBABLY ALREADY SNIFFED OUT MY WHERE-ABOUTS.
SORRY, BUT...
...I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW.
10/4
10/4
A GREAT MANY OF US...
...WILL BE COMING...

YOU'RE GOING WITHOUT ANY EXPLA-NATION?!
THAT WERE-WOLF, THAT BLACK DEVIL...!!
W-WAIT!
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "US"?!
ARE YOU A DEVIL, TOO?!
I WONDER...

WATCH.

CAW
RUSTLE
I AM THE DEVIL'S SORCERER.

W--
WAAAH!
AH...
AT AN EVIL CASTLE TO THE EAST OF HERE...
...I IMMERSED MYSELF IN EVIL.
AND I COM-MANDED EVIL.
MY POWERS ATTRACT THE WAYS OF DARKNESS. THEY ARE CURSED.

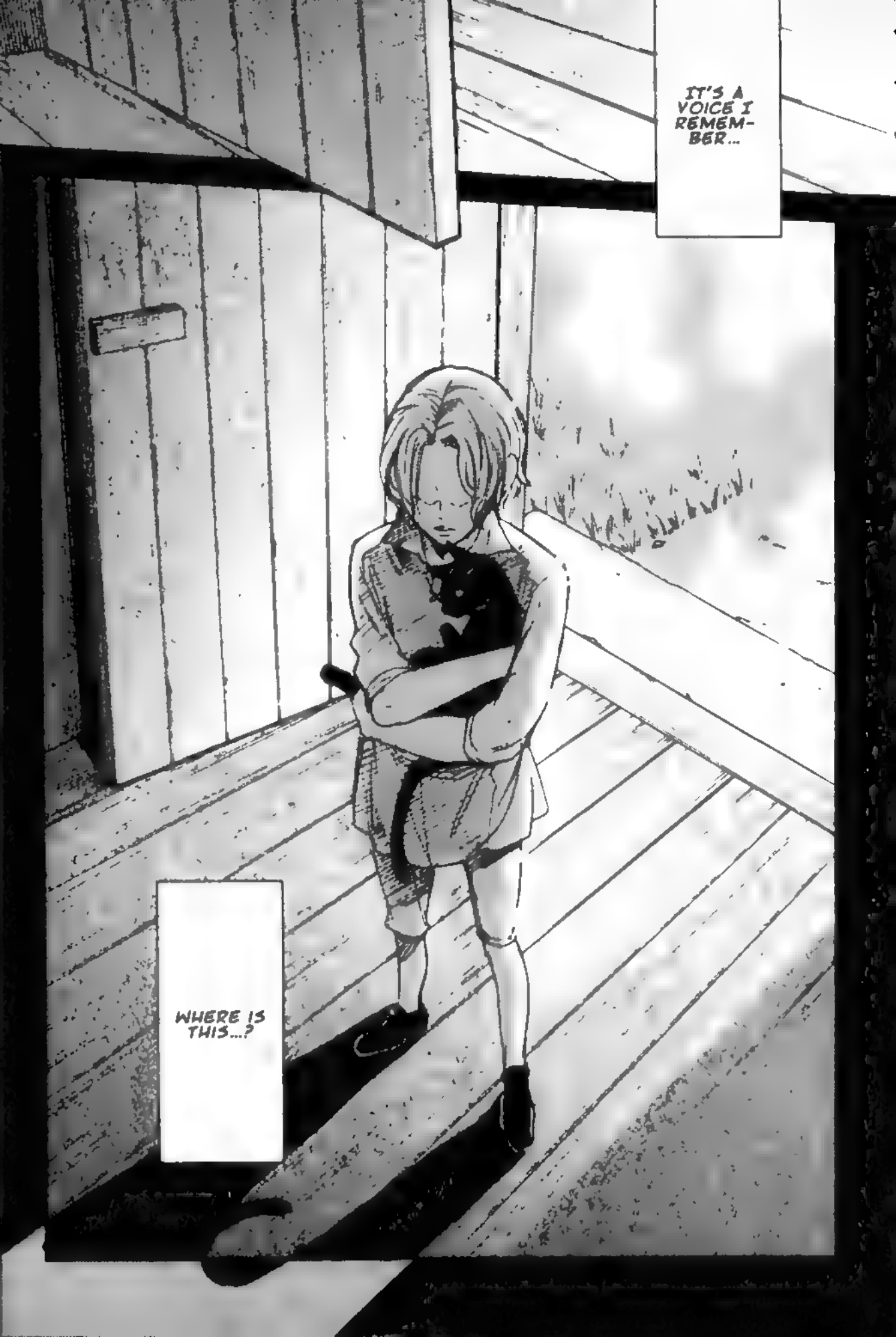
K-I
ALTHOUGH I AM HUMAN...
...I ACQUIRED THE ART OF CREATING DEVILS...
...AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY INFLICT HARM ON HUMANITY.
FLICKER
.....
IF I LEAVE THIS PLACE WILL BE SAFE.

THE POWER I HAVE ...
I CAN-NOT USE IT.
NOT FOR PEO-PLE.
NOT FOR DEVILS.
SO...
...IF I COULD AT LEAST GO FAR AWAY ALONE...
HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE DARKNESS.
.....

HE SHOULDN'T BE MOVING AROUND YET.
HE'S BADLY INJURED.
I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
THE RAIN'S COMING DOWN HARDER.
HE SEEMED SO COLD FROM BEHIND.

HECTOR...

HECTOR...
HECTOR...!
.....?
WHO'S THAT...?
HECTOR!
SOME-BODY...
SOME-BODY'S CALL-ING ME.
WAKE UP...
WHO... IS IT?

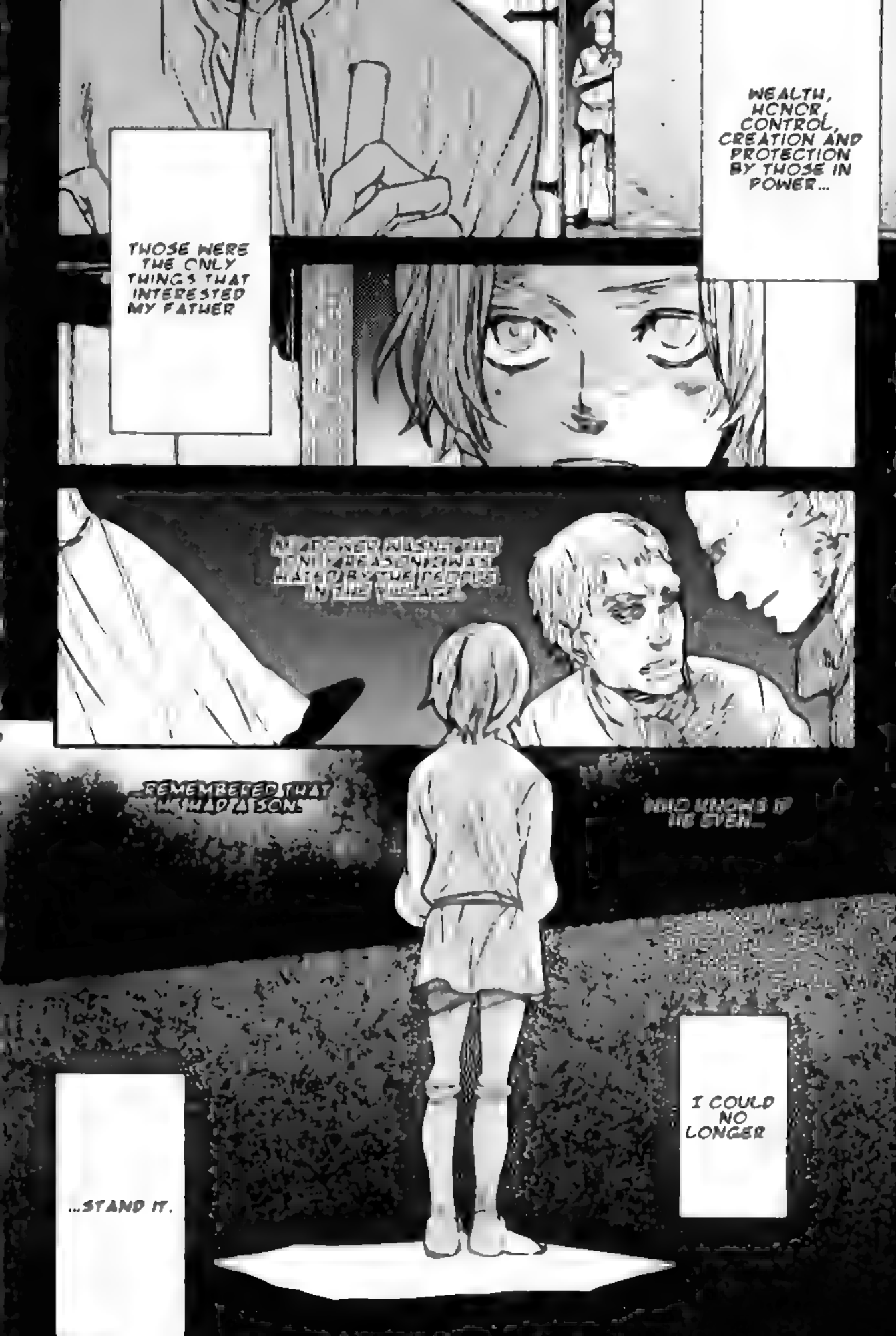

IT'S A VOICE I REMEMBER...
WHERE IS THIS...?

WHACK
.....!!
AH...
HECTOR!!
YOU DIS-GUSTING CHILD!
I SEE.
THIS IS...
HE'S CURSED.
POOR KID...
HOW HORRI-FYING
...MY CHILD-HOOD MEMORY.

HECTOR!!
MOTHER, WHERE ARE YOU?
MOTHER..
WHY CAN'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY?!
HECTOR!! I TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES NOT TO GO OUTSIDE!
EVEN WITHOUT THAT YOU'VE CAUSED US SO MUCH TROUBLE!
SLAP
AND YOU BROUGHT HOME ANOTHER BLACK CAT?!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU!!
I COULDN'T UNDER-STAND IT WHEN I WAS A CHILD.

BUT STRANGELY, EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, INSECTS AND ANIMALS WERE ATTRACTED TO ME.
UNTAMEABLE STRAY DOGS AND CATS...
...SNAKES, CROWS, BATS, SPIDERS, OWLS...
...I GOT ALONG WITH ANIMALS THAT LIVED AT NIGHT.
AND MORE THAN ANIMALS THAT LIVED DURING THE DAY...
DID YOU SEE THAT?
THAT'S A WOLF!! WH--
WHAT ARE YOU?!!

PLEASE!! DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY!!
STOP IT!!
HE'S MY FRIEND !!
FATHER...
MY FATHER...
MY FATHER STUDIED ALCHEMY.


WEALTH, HONOR, CONTROL, CREATION AND PROTECTION BY THOSE IN POWER...
THOSE WERE THE ONLY THINGS THAT INTERESTED MY FATHER
I REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD A SON.
WHO KNOWS IF HE EVEN...
I COULD NO LONGER
...STAND IT.

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE...!!
I HATE THIS! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT ANYMORE!!
NONE OF IT!
ANYBODY, SOMEBODY... HELP ME...
GOD...!!

……
?!

IT WAS HIM! I SAW HIM! THE ALCHEMIST'S...!!
THE CHURCH IS ON FIRE!!
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?! I I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT
IT WAS THAT CHILD!!
HECTOR!! THAT CURSED CHILD...!!

huff...
.....
HCH HCH.
WHAT HAP-PENED...?
WHAT...?
HCH HCH.
THEY GOT JUST WHAT THEY DESERVED.
THOSE BASTARDS...
WHY?
SERVED THEY RIGHT.
AREN'T YOU GLAD?
NOW YOU'RE FREE.
MOTHER ...
FATHER ...
NOW, RUN.
RUN AWAY.
WHY?
WHY?!!
YOUR PLACE ISN'T HERE.

DO YOU THINK GOD IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU?
GOD...!!
HEH HEH.
YOU.
THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, AFTER ALL.
LOOK.
THAT'S WHY WE HELPED YOU.
heh heh
heh heh heh

DON'T WORRY. DON'T WORRY...
YOU HAVE A PLACE TO GO TO...
RIGHT NOW...
...YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT.
LET'S GO HOME.
HOME...
A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BELONG...
...TO OUR CASTLE!!
NOW THEN!!

110
ドク
ドク
ドク
ドク
AAH...
...AAAGH!!
NNNG...
UUHH...

WAIT...
PLEASE WAIT!!
COUNT DRACULA ....!!

THE REASON I WANTED POWER...
I DON'T WANT...
...TO KILL ANYMORE.
EVEN IF I WAS NOT DESTINED TO LIVE UNDER THE LIGHT...
EVEN SO, STILL, I...
...IS BECAUSE...
...I AM A HUMAN, TOO.
HECTOR...
WHY?!!
WHY DO YOU KILL THE HUMANS?!!
I...

YOU SHOULD JUST BECOME A DEVIL.

OKAY ?
LET'S DO THAT!
—AND THEN WE CAN BECOME FRIENDS.
OKAY?
.....!!
NH...
huff...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HECTOR...
huff...

YOU DAMNED DEVIL!!
I'M NOT GOING BACK
DAMN
.....
SO YOU SHOWED ME THAT VISION?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LEFT THE CHURCH?
TO JUST LEAVE OUT MY SERVANT, DEVIL!
THAT'S LIKE ANNOUNCING IT TO THE WORLD WHERE I AM.

NO...
WITH THESE WOUNDS, THEY'D CATCH UP TO ME EITHER WAY
COME, FAIRY!
WHEN MY HEART GROWS WEAK...
THE DEVIL COMES SPEAKING TO ME
INNO-CENT AND PURE
THAT'S WHY HE'S SO LOYAL
.....
THAT'S RIGHT

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SQUATTING THERE?
IF I WERE TO LOSE CONTROL...
...TO NOT LEND AN EAR...
...TO THOSE WHIS-PERINGS FROM THE DEVIL.
THE THING I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF IS...
HA HA HA!
!!
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, HECTOR.

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SEE YOU...
...GENERAL HECTOR!!
FOR SOMEONE REPUTED TO BE THE GREATEST SORCERER OF THE DARK ARTS, YOU LOOK PRETTY PITIFUL.
SO, THEY'VE CAUGHT UP WITH ME AL-READY...
ISAAC...

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY WEAK...
...HECTOR.
!!

WHY DID YOU BETRAY US?!!

NGH...
!!

DID YOUR CHEST WOUND OPEN UP?
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER...
...HECTOR?!!
ARE YOU SO WEAK THAT YOU CAN'T CONJURE UP DEVILS ANYMORE?!
...YOU'RE STILL SAYING YOU CAN'T KILL HUMANS?!
OR MAY-BE...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE NEVER BEEN LOVED BY HUMANS?!

WHY DO YOU ATTACH YOURSELF SO MUCH TO THESE PEOPLE?
WHY?
.....!!
LOOK AT THEM.
SO WEAK AND SUSPICIOUS.
FOOLISH CREA-TURES WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS THEY MOB TO-GETHER.
THEY TURNED THEIR BACKS ON COUNT DRACULA, WHO HAS PROTECTED THAT LAND FOR SO LONG.
TRAITORS WHO BIT THE HAND THAT FED THEM!!
YOU AND I...
WE WERE CHASED FROM THE LAND OF MEN, JUST FOR POSSESSING THE POWER OF THE DEVIL...

I WANT TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW
BUT IN HONOR OF COUNT DRACULA, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE
.....
COME BACK, HECTOR !!
WHEN YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANCE!!
TO THE DEVIL'S CASTLE !!
COME BACK TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE WE ARE ALLOWED TO EXIST!!

...YOU'LL FALL VICTIM TO MY SPEAR RIGHT NOW, HECTOR.
OTHER-WISE...
...HA HA! YOU...
DID YOU ACQUIRE YOUR POWERS JUST SO YOU COULD BECOME DRACULA'S PAWN?
EVEN IF THE WORLD OF MAN REJECTS ME...
HA...
ドクドクドク...

EVEN IF I WERE TO BE HATED...
EVEN SO...
EVEN IF I WERE TO HAVE NO PLACE TO EXIST...
I
I AM HUMAN.
FOR ME!! FOR MYSELF!!
NOT FOR ANYONE'S SAKE!
I SOUGHT THIS POWER SO THAT I COULD REMAIN HUMAN!
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
THEN HERE, IN THIS PLACE ...
YOU DARE SPEAK IN CONTEMPT OF YOUR LORD?
.....!!
NOT TO BE THE PAWN IN SOME RIDICULOUS PLOT FOR REVENGE!!
DAMN... YOU

...YOU DIE!!!
.....?!

WHAT IS THIS...?

?!
THIS WAVE... IS IT COMING FROM THE DEVIL'S CASTLE?

IMPOS-
SIBLE...
.....!!
DOES THIS MEAN THAT BELMONT HAS ALREADY...?
COUNT DRACULA ...?!

NGH...

ISAAC!!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE... THERE'S NO WAY.
THERE'S NO WAY COUNT DRACULA COULD BE DEFEATED.
THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL!

IT'S FLOWING INTO ME!!
GUH...
AH...?!
.....!!
WHAT IS THIS?
AAAHHH...
.....?!
...AAAUGH!!

HECTOR...
.....
THIS POWER IS CURSED.
HORRIBLE.
LOOK.
YOU KILLED IT.
!!
YOU TRAITOR.
HECTOR...

YOU ACTUALLY KNOW, DON'T YOU?
THAT YOU CANNOT LIVE AMONG THE HUMANS?
DON'T LISTEN TO IT...!!

……!!
HEH…
HAHAHA…
HAHAHAHA!

IF...
...YOU...
...HADN'T BETRAYED US...
IT'S YOUR FAULT, HECTOR.
IF...
IF YOU HADN'T RUN AWAY...
...THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO LEAVE COUNT DRACULA'S SIDE!
IF I...

THEN SCUM LIKE BELMONT WOULD NEVER HAVE...!!
IF YOU AND I HAD BEEN THERE!!
!.....
NGH...
WOBBLE
N--
NO...
THAT'S NOT IT ...
IF I...
WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH HIM?
WHY...?
I ...
IF I WERE AT HIS SIDE...
AT LEAST...
WHY, SIR?!
WHY CAN WE NOT EVEN DIE TOGETHER ?!!
WHY ?!!

NGH...
HECTOR...
DAMN YOU!
YOU, I'LL NEVER FOR-GIVE!!
.....
.....!!

WHY...?
NO...
.....
ドサッ
ドサッ

WHY?!
GRR...
ズキン
WHY?!
DAMN YOU!!

ドサッ

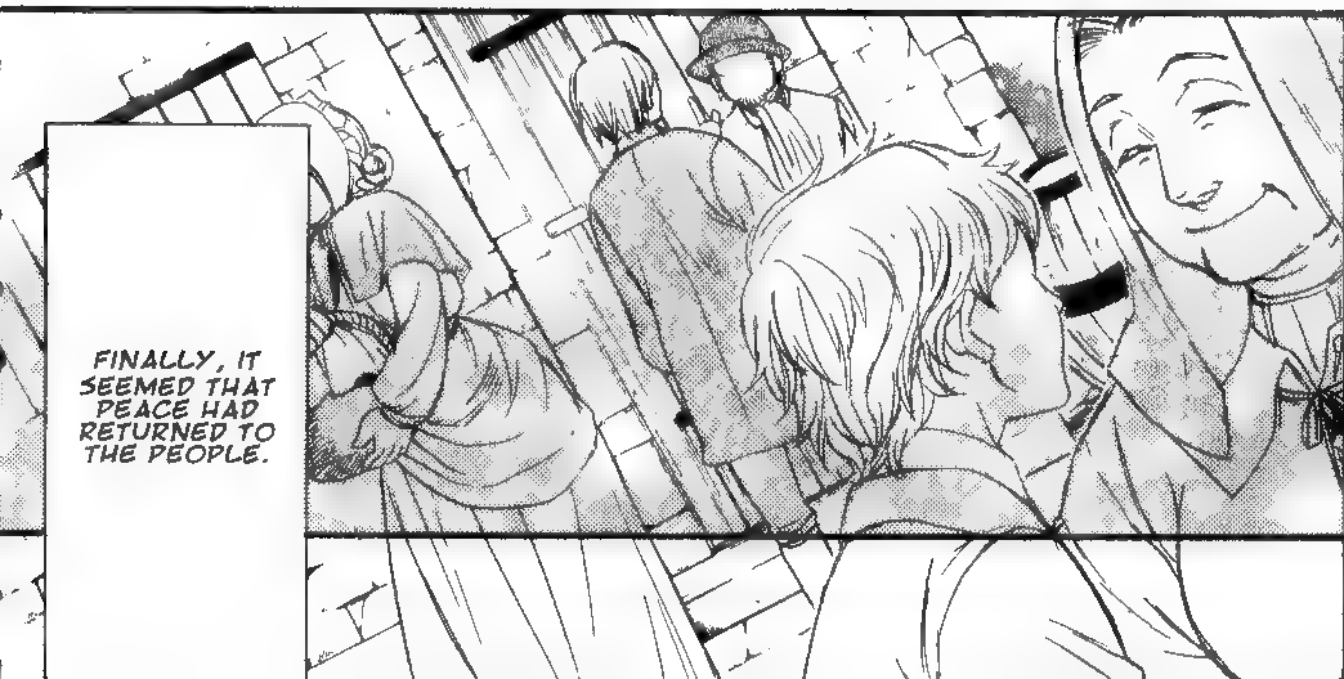
DEEP IN THESE MOUNTAINS...

AND SO ...

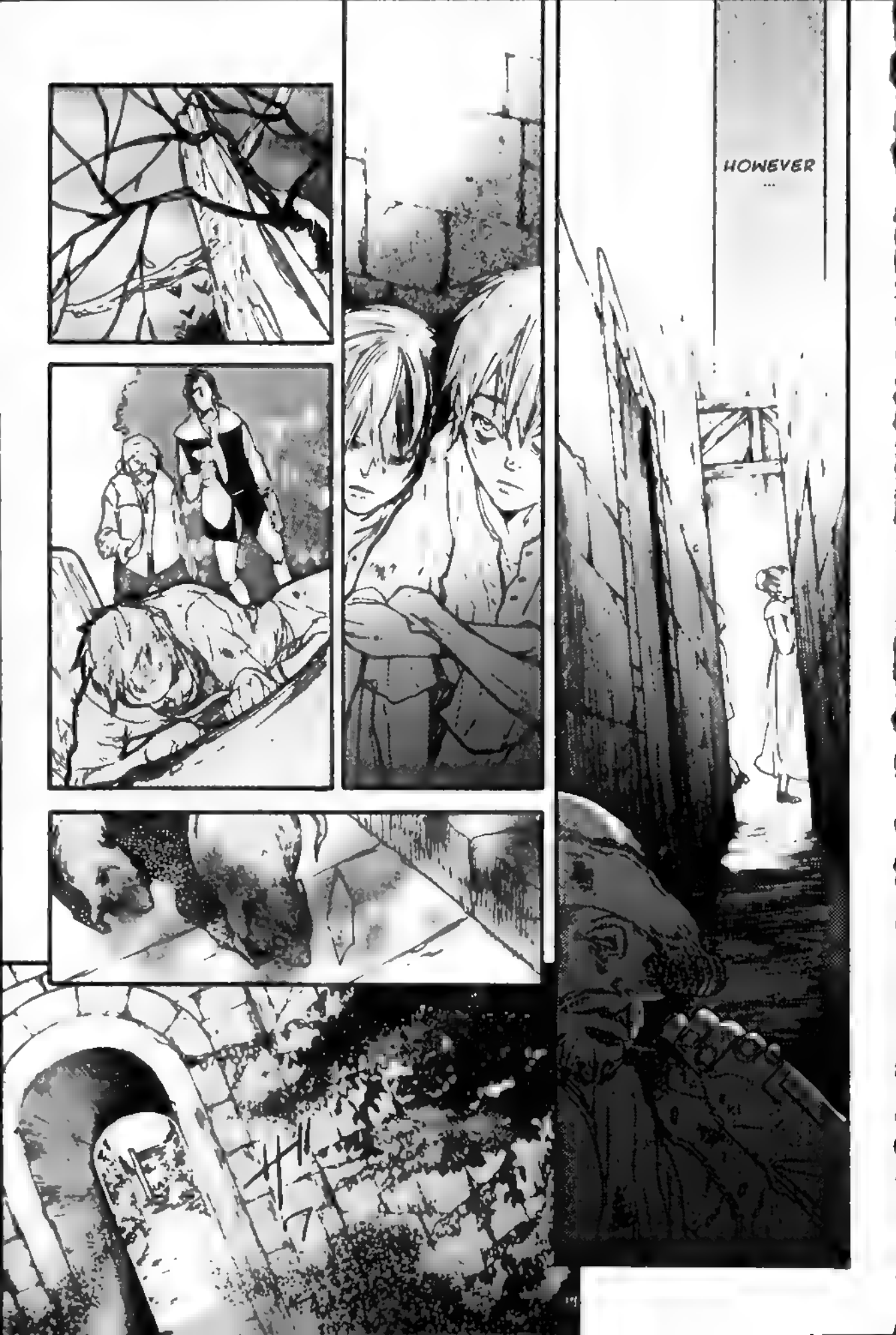
...WITH THE TWO SORCERERS, GENERALS OF THE DEVIL'S ARMY, HAVING GONE MISSING...

...THE TERRIBLE BATTLE BETWEEN DRACULA AND HUMANS THAT HAD PLUNGED WALACHIA INTO FEAR CAME TO AN END.

THE OVERJOYED PEOPLE CELEBRATED THE YOUNG LORD OF BELMONT AND HIS COMRADES AS HEROES.



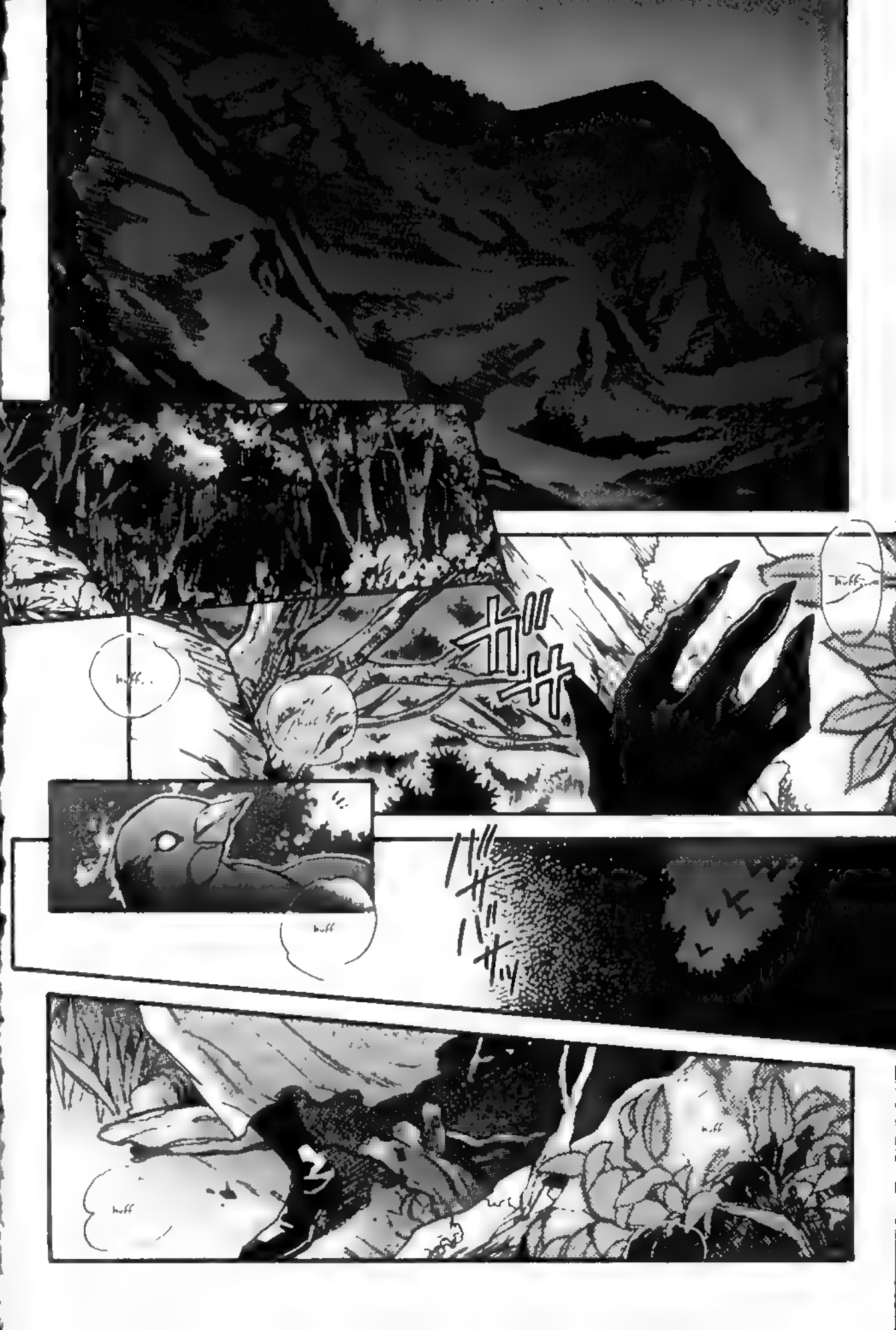
FINALLY, IT SEEMED THAT PEACE HAD RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE.


HOWEVER
...

SLOWLY, SO SLOWLY THAT NO ONE WOULD NOTICE...
WHAT IS IT, RALPH?
NO...

A MERE BAD OMEN FOR NOW, BUT...

...A DARK SHADOW STARTED CREEPING UP THE FEET OF PEOPLE.

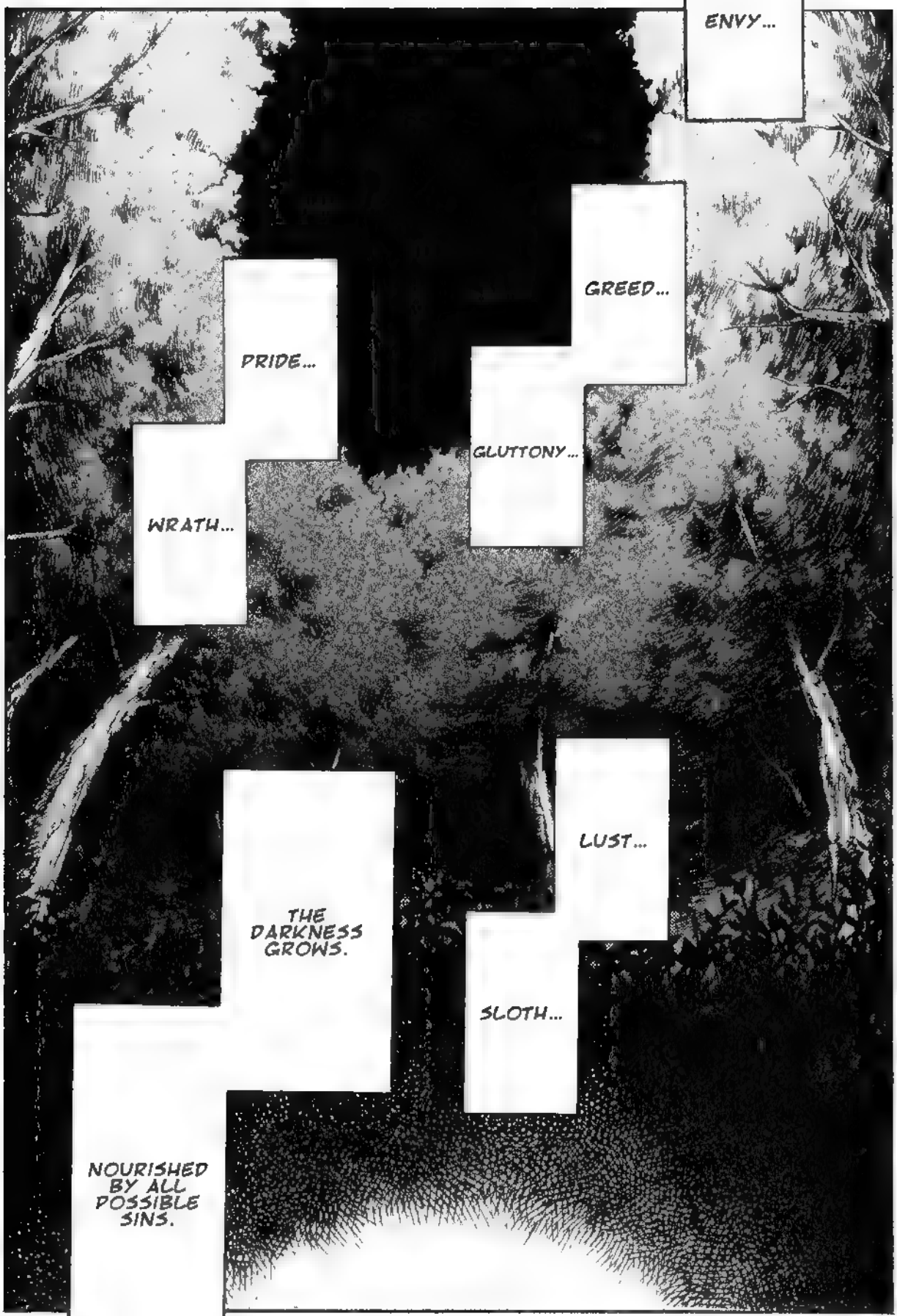

huff...
huff
huff
huff
huff

huff...
huff
huff
!!!
HA...
HA HA HA...
HEH... HA HA...
.....
HECTOR, DAMN YOU...!
HA...
IN THAT MO-MENT ...

...JUST BARELY..
...YOU MISSED!
YOU CUT ME...
BUT YOU WERE BEING MERCI-FUL WITH ME!!
GENEROUS COMMANDER HECTOR...
!!
HGH
NGHH...

THE SHAME OF HAVING SURVIVED ALONE...
HOW SHALL I MAKE YOU PAY FOR IT?
HECTOR...
YOU ALWAYS...
YOU ALONE ALWAYS KEPT YOURSELF LOOKING HUMAN!

YOU POS-
SESSED
MORE
POWERFUL
SORCERY
THAN I!
!
AND YOU
WERE ABLE
TO GET
CLOSER
TO COUNT
DRACULA
OVER ME!!
YOU...
AGAIN, THE
DARKNESS
FILLS ME.

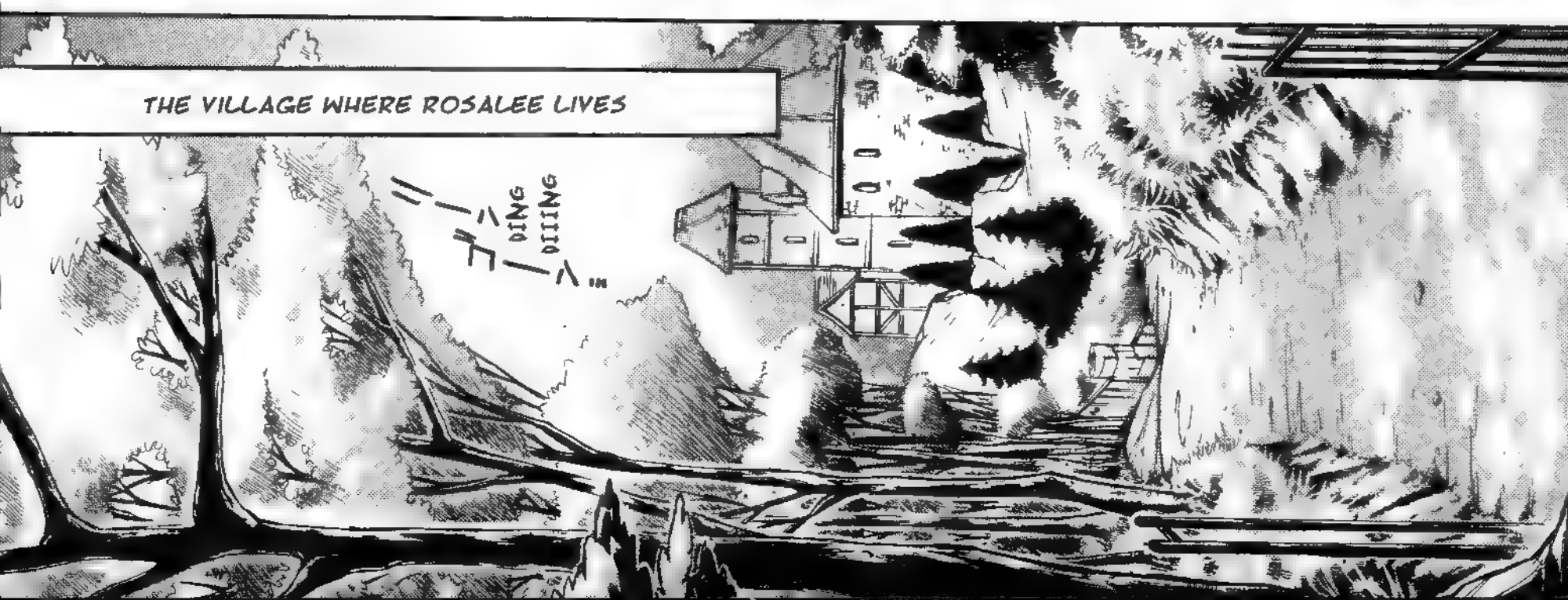

ENVY...
GREED...
PRIDE...
GLUTTONY...
WRATH...
LUST...
THE DARKNESS GROWS.
SLOTH...
NOURISHED BY ALL POSSIBLE SINS.

HMM.
SO IT SEEMS THAT THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN FOR NOW.
!

WHAT IS THIS...?
BUT...
...WHAT IS THIS MOOD?
.....
!!!
I STILL DON'T SEE IT YET.
RATHER ...
...I SHOULD SAY THAT IT HASN'T YET BEEN DECIDED.

OH WELL.
NOW THEN.
FROM WHERE SHALL THE WINDS OF DESTINY BLOW?
I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
SHUUU

Castlevania Curse of Darkness


THE VILLAGE WHERE ROSALEE LIVES
DING
DIIING
IN

# Chapter 4: Redemption

OH, YOU'RE STANDING IN THE SHADOWS AGAIN.
THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
HECTOR?
COME NOW!! I NEED YOU TO HELP ME.
HEY...
THE CLOTHES LINE BROKE.
I NEED A MAN'S HELP.
ギュ
YOU'RE PULLING TOO HARD HECTOR!!
YOU'LL BREAK THE TREE BRANCH!
AGHH!!

I'LL HELP...
EEEK!
NO!! YOU MUSTN'T!!
THAT'S MY...
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE NEVER HUNG LAUNDRY.
THIS WILL DO. THANK YOU.
Pbbt!
OH YOU...
YOU'RE SO FUNNY, HECTOR.
AND YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY SILVER HAIR AND SUCH A PRETTY FACE.

BUT YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH A CHILD...
WHERE IS MY ARMOR AND SWORD?
I...CAN'T LET YOU HAVE THEM. YOU WERE BEDRIDDEN FOR A WEEK. YOU'RE ONLY NOW GETTING UP AND ABOUT.
BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T MIND GOING THROUGH THAT AGAIN?!
IT'S OVER NOW.
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID IN THE BEGIN-NING, TOO.
HAVE YOU FOR-GOTTEN ABOUT THE WERE-WOLF?!
WHY?

...OUR FATHER, WHO RETURNED FROM WALACHIA, TOLD US THIS.
ALL THE BAD THINGS HAVE ENDED.
WHAT...?
YOU WERE ASLEEP, SO YOU MAY HAVE NOT REALIZED IT, BUT...
.....?!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WERE BEING PURSUED BY THE DEMONS.
AND SO THIS AREA HAS BECOME VERY PEACEFUL.
THE DEMON CHASER BELMONT SAVED US.
THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS, THEY'RE ALL GONE.
RIGHT NOW, THE MOST DANGEROUS BEINGS ACTUALLY ARE US HUMANS.

BUT IT'S BEEN A WEEK, AND NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.
AND YOUR INJURIES HAVEN'T HEALED YET.
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO. PLEASE STAY HERE...
...HECTOR.
IT'S... OVER?
I SEE.
AT THAT MOMENT...
HECTOR?
BUT NOW...

YOU WERE WORRIED FOR US, WEREN'T YOU?
!
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE A KIND PERSON.
.....
YOU'RE SO VERY OPTIMISTIC ALWAYS.
WAIT, NO, I'M SORRY.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK ME ANY-THING?
DIDN'T THAT BOY TELL YOU ANY-THING?
WHAT I DID, WHAT I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM, HOW I KILLED THAT WEREWOLF?
WHO I AM, AND WHERE I CAME FROM...

YOUR NAME IS HECTOR.
YOU HAVE PRETTY SILVER HAIR, AND YOU WERE INJURED.
AND YOU'VE NEVER DONE LAUNDRY IN YOUR LIFE.
AND YOU SAVED TED AND I.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

SISTER ROSALEE!
ROSA...
YOU CAN LEAVE WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
BUT DO IT AFTER YOUR INJURIES HAVE HEALED.
OTHERWISE, I'LL END UP SEARCHING FOR YOU AGAIN.
OH MY, MY!
.....
WHAT IS IT?
MY MOM SAID TO TAKE THIS BREAD TO YOU!!
AND WE FOUND SOME DELICIOUS WILD STRAWBERRIES, TOO.
AND HONEY!
OH, HOW WONDERFUL.

HAVE YOU ALREADY EATEN?
BUT FIRST, WE HAVE TO PREPARE LUNCH.
!...
SLAP
7.

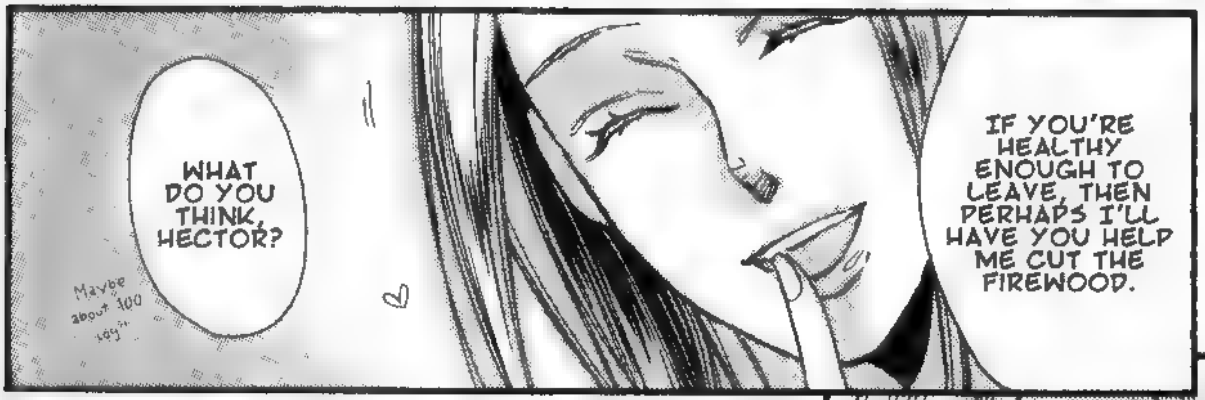
BE-SIDES ...
...EVEN IF YOU'RE A BAD GUY, I'M GOING TO PROTECT ROSALEE, SO WE'LL BE FINE!
JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, I'M NOT AFRAID!!
.....

I...
LET'S EAT SOUP TOGETHER TODAY.
OH, HECTOR.
NO, I--
Okaaay!
NOW, EVERYONE, WILL YOU HELP ME PREPARE?
HEY...

I...
He's handsome
He's a prince!
NOW, HECTOR, WILL YOU KINDLY SHOW THE LADY THE WAY?
MELISSA HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU, TOO, HECTOR.

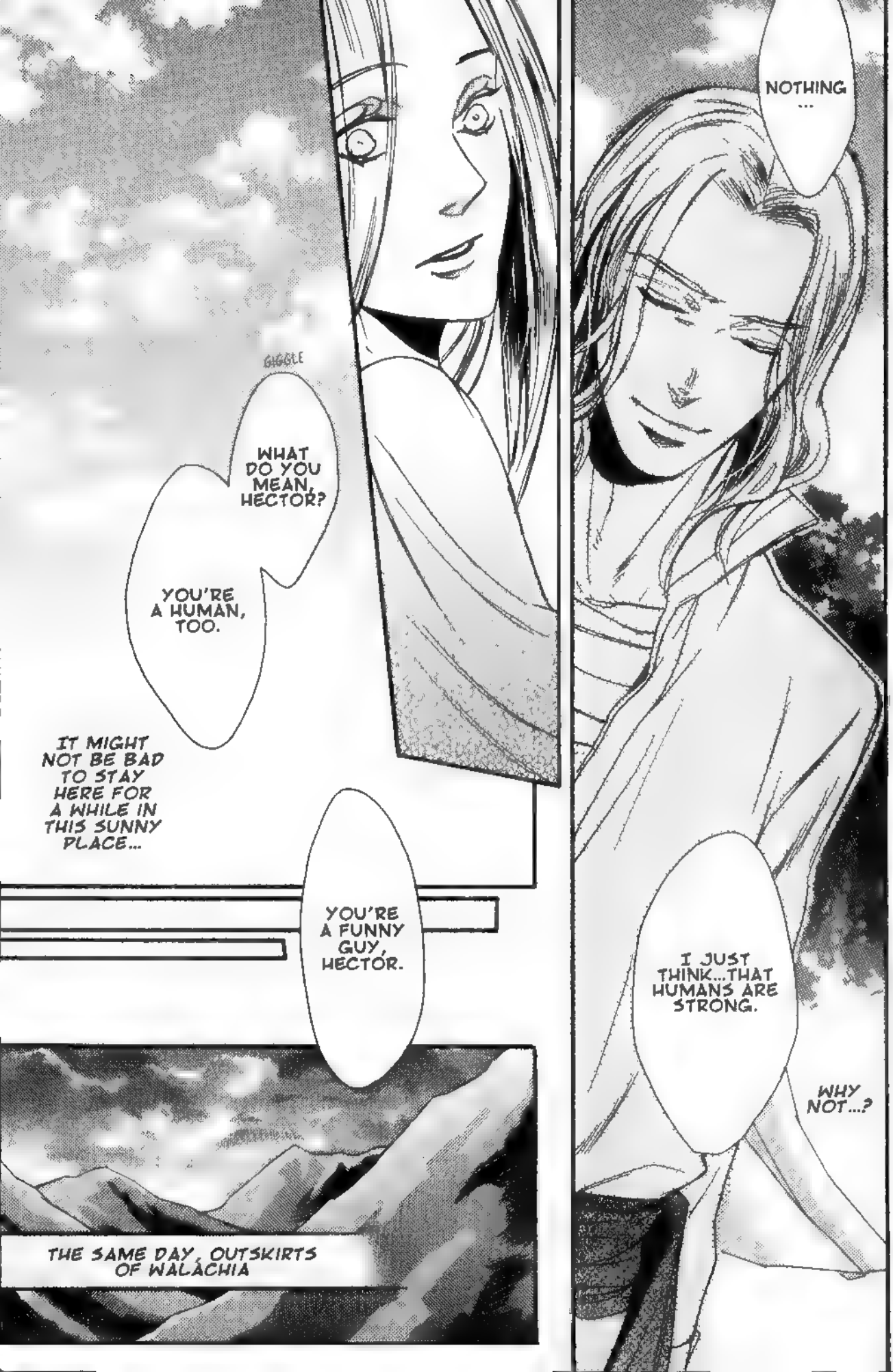
ROSALEE SEEMS SO HAPPY...
SHALL I BAKE AN APPLE PIE TODAY?
SINCE FATHER HAS RETURNED, I'VE RECEIVED SOME TIME OFF.
THIS USED TO BE AN ORPHAN-AGE.
I GREW UP HERE, TOO.
WHY DO YOU LIVE ON THIS HILL BY YOUR-SELF, SO FAR AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE?
MY FOSTER FATHER AND MOTHER DIED HERE A LONG TIME AGO. NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
SO YOU SEE, I REALLY WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO STAY.

NOW THEN.
LET'S GO INSIDE AND HAVE A WARM MEAL.
WE'LL DRAW WATER FROM THE WELL.
AND WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE FIREWOOD FOR TO-NIGHT.
IT'S A NICE DAY TODAY.


WHAT DO YOU THINK, HECTOR?
IF YOU'RE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO LEAVE, THEN PERHAPS I'LL HAVE YOU HELP ME CUT THE FIREWOOD.

WHAT IS IT?

I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT I'D SURVIVE AND LIVE AMONG HUMANS AGAIN...


NOTHING ...
I JUST THINK...THAT HUMANS ARE STRONG.
WHY NOT...?
GIGGLE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HECTOR?
YOU'RE A HUMAN, TOO.
IT MIGHT NOT BE BAD TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE IN THIS SUNNY PLACE...
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, HECTOR.
THE SAME DAY, OUTSKIRTS OF WALACHIA

WHAT'S THIS?
NEIGH

BUT STILL...
カポ
カポ
ヒュウウ...
カタ
THEY SEEM MORE FREQUENT LATELY.
THE AFTERMATH OF A WITCH TRIAL...
...POVERTY AND STARVATION SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN WORSE.
WHY?
.....
JUST AS I THOUGHT--THE HOMELESS HAVE INCREASED.
DRACULA DIED AND DEMONS SUPPOSEDLY ALL VANQUISHED, BUT...

MAYBE IT'S JUST IN MY MIND. BUT IT SEEMS THE CLOSER I GET TO DRACULA'S CASTLE THE WORSE IT GETS.
MAYBE THERE'S STILL SOMETHING...
WHIP
AYE!

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE.
SO YOU'VE COME, BECK-ONED BY THE CALAMITY.
BUT IT'S STILL EARLY.
THE TIME WHEN YOU'LL BE NEEDED HAS NOT COME YET...
...RALPH BEL-MONT.

FIRST IS THE DEMON ALCHEMIST WHO DISAPPEARED.
WE MUST FIND HIM.
ONE WEEK LATER
CHIRP CHIRP
I'M SORRY.

I'VE TURNED YOU INTO A PORTER.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WOULD BE SO MANY RIPE APPLES.
I'M GOING TO BAKE SOME PIES.
I'LL MAKE SNACKS FOR THE CHILDREN AND DIVVY THEM UP FOR EVERYONE.
NO.
YOU'VE LET ME STAY A LONG TIME. THIS IS THE LEAST I COULD DO.
HEAV
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT ALL THESE BY YOURSELF?
OF COURSE NOT!!
How insulting!!
THE REST I'LL SELL IN TOWN... ALTHOUGH IT'S A BIT FAR.
I CAN'T EAT JUST FROM TEACHING THE CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE TO WRITE, AND HELPING AT THE CHURCH.
THESE DAYS, EVERYTHING'S SO EXPENSIVE...

SINCE THE NEW FEUDAL LORD HAS COME, THE TAXES HAVE BECOME HEAVIER.
PLAGUE-CARRYING RATS AND CROWS HAVE INCREASED.
EVERYONE IS ON EDGE, AND IT SEEMS THERE HAVE BEEN MORE FIGHTS.
COULD IT BE?
SO...
...IT'S BEEN A BIG HELP WITH YOU HELPING ME WITH EVERYTHING.
THANK YOU.
NO, THE DEMONIC PRESENCE HAS DEFINITELY VANISHED SINCE THEN.
IS IT JUST A SIMPLE PHENOMENON?
SURE.
THAT'S PROBABLY IT.
OH MY.
IT MUST HAVE ENDED...

THE ROAD...
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
I WONDER IF IT FELL FROM THE STORM THE OTHER DAY.
I DON'T USE THIS ROAD MUCH, BUT THIS IS INCONVENIENT.
I'LL HAVE TO NOTIFY THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE LATER.
.....

I'LL DO IT.
HECTOR!! I APPRE-CIATE THAT, BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE.
IF I WERE A HUMAN, NO. BUT...
WHAT...?

COME FORTH...
RIGHT NOW, DEMONS AREN'T LIKELY TO BE ATTRACTED.
...JUGGERNAUT!!
!!
ハッ

ガラガラ
…!
!?

HECTOR...
IS THAT ALL?
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THIS?
!!
HOW BORING...
?
HECTOR...
I DON'T LIKE IT HERE.
LET'S GO HOME.
COME ON.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I'M NOT GOING BACK!!
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.
THAT WON'T DO.
AFTER ALL...

LOOK!
!
.....?
!!
HECTOR!!

DO YOU REALLY THINK...
...THAT YOU CAN STAY TOGETHER?
IT'S NO GOOD...
...NO MATTER WHAT.
EVEN IF IT'S FOR THE HUMANS...
EVEN IF YOU DO NOTHING BAD...
EVEN YOUR PARENTS...
HERETIC.
LET'S GO BACK!!
YOU CAN'T.
YOU WON'T BE ACCEPTED.
AFTER ALL...
TRAITOR.
WE...
...CANNOT BE WITH HUMANS.
POOR THING.

...YOU'RE A DEMON.
!...!!
AAGH!!
HECTOR!!
HECTOR!!
LET'S GO HOME.
ARGH!
...ZGH.
AGH...
AH...
AGH...

HECTOR!!
huff..
A DREAM..?
huff..
WHAT HAP-PENED?
YOU WERE CRYING OUT IN YOUR SLEEP
WHAT HAP-PENED TO THAT BIG TREE AT THE CLIFF?

THE VILLAGERS GOT RID OF IT YESTERDAY.
I...
SO I MUST HAVE SUMMONED THEM....
HA...
HECTOR?
LOOK OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.
HA...
HA HA HA HA HA HA!

THE BEASTS HAVE IN CREASED HAVEN'T THEY?
DON'T THE WOLVES' CRIES SOUND NEARER?
A FLOCK OF CROWS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT
I ACQUIRED THE POWER
AND CAME TO BE ABLE TO USE IT
BUT IF MY MP POWER WEAKENS, AS IT HAS NOW...
...I MIGHT END UP REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN

I FEEL COMFORT-ABLE HERE...
FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED WHAT IT WAS TO FEEL COMFORT-ABLE.
BUT EVENTUALLY... YOU AND THE CHILDREN WILL DISCOVER...
...THAT I'M...
...SOMETHING... TO BE DETESTED.
!
NGH.
STRANGE.
THE WORDS COME POURING OUT.
THIS IS JUST LIKE...
...BACK THEN.
.....
I'M AFRAID.

I WAS HATED AND AVOIDED BY PEOPLE.
AND CHASED AWAY.
THE POWER I ACQUIRED DIDN'T BRING ME PEACE.
BUT I COULD NOT GET RID OF IT.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
THE ONE PLACE THAT RECOGNIZED MY POWERS, AND ACCEPTED ME...
...IS NO LONG-ER THERE ...
...JUST LIKE MY BURNED DOWN HOUSE.
IT'S LIKE A CURSE.
I WASN'T ABLE TO STAY THERE, EITHER.
I HAVE TO LIVE, AND REMAIN A DEMON UNTIL I DIE.

THE ONLY ONES WHO CAME TO SPEAK TO ME WERE THE DEMONS.
HECTOR...
LET'S GO HOME...
I'M ALONE...
PLIP
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME.
BUT STILL, I WANT TO LIVE...
HECTOR...

RO...

CAN'T YOU HEAR MY VOICE?

AND TED'S VOICE?
AND MELISSA'S?
SINCE I MET YOU I'VE SMILED MANY TIMES
BUT THOSE THINGS, FOR US WHO ARE LIVING HERE NOW
THEY AREN'T IMPOR-TANT
I CAN'T PRETEND THEY NEVER HAPPENED.
BUT DON'T BE A CAPTIVE TO THEM!!

BUT YOU MUSTN'T LEND THEM YOUR EAR.
...ANYBODY CAN HEAR THEM.
PERHAPS YOUR HEARING IS A BIT TOO GOOD OR SOME-THING.
SO YOU CAN HEAR THE VOICES OF DEMONS...
SO ALONE...
HECTOR.
DON'T CURSE YOURSELF.
ENVY AND GREED CAN EASILY DELUDE PEOPLE.

KNOW THAT I...
...LIKE YOU.
SLIP
PLEASE.
NEVER FORGET THAT.

COUNT DRA-CULA...
AND NEEDED BY YOU
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN SUCH THINGS GAVE ME JOY, BUT
COME...

ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?
WITHOUT US?
...PERHAPS YOU ALSO FELL VICTIM TO YOUR OWN CURSE.
.....
BUT YOU'LL BE ALONE...
...AGAIN.
NO.
HH!!

ROSALEE...
I'M NO LONGER ALONE.
I AM GOING TO BE REBORN.
AND ALL OF YOU...
...WILL GO BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE BORN.

BALJHET MOUNTAINS
HEH...
HEH HEH... HA HA!
DON'T YOU SEEM SO VERY HAPPY...
BUT...
...HAVE YOU NOT FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME?
Heh heh
BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU SO MUCH EVERY DAY SINCE THEN.
.....!!

YOU SHOULD NOT BE UP--
SHUT UP !!
!!
!!
SHUDDER
!
HEH.
I SEE.
THAT'S RIGHT...YOU MUST THINK I'VE DIED!
BUT I'M ALIVE, ALL RIGHT--A BIT TIRED, BUT ALIVE!

BUT NOT YET.
I HAVE TO TEACH YOU.
FIRST, I HAVE TO GET A TASTE OF WHAT HAPPI-NESS IS FOR PEOPLE.
DEFINITELY IN A WAY THAT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
THAT WAY, IT'LL BE MORE...
...FUN.
ENJOY YOUR TEMPO-RARY MOMENT OF PEACE...
...HECTOR.

"THE DEEPER THE DARKNESS IN ONE'S SOUL, THE STRONGER THE DEMON'S POWER BECOMES."
Ha ha ha...
I SHALL SEND A GIFT TO A COWARD SUCH AS YOURSELF.
YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

CLANG
CLANG

THREE YEARS LATER
ガロン!
WHOA!!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP ALREADY AND USE A SWORD THAT MATCHES YOUR HEIGHT?
SHUT UP!!
I'M GOING TO USE MY DAD'S SWORD AND BE-COME A GREATER WARRIOR THAN MY DAD!
DAMN, AND I WAS DOING GOOD...
OWW...
Have you finished chopping those 100 logs yet?
WHAT, YOU CAN'T EVEN COM-PETE WITH ROSALEE?
Go away
WELL, YOU'LL FIRST HAVE TO MAKE ME USE MY RIGHT HAND BEFORE YOU SAY THAT, TED.

ROSALEE WENT TO THE TOWN.
I CAN'T GO WHERE THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE, AFTER ALL.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU'VE BEEN HERE ALL THIS TIME, SO MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW.
THE TOWN?
.....

IN TOWN, THE PLAGUE, ROBBERIES, PLUNDERING, SWINDLING...
...VAGRANCY AND QUARRELING HAVE ALL GROWN.
IN ANY CASE, I'VE HEARD THAT IT'S BECOME DANGEROUS.

ROSA-LEE IS ABSENT-MINDED, Y'KNOW...
SO, UH...
I HOPE NOTH-ING HAP-PENS.
.....
I'LL GO AND PICK HER UP.
WHA...? BUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, AS LONG AS IT'S JUST A SHORT WHILE.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

.....
BUT THIS...
...IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HECTOR
……?!
AH…!

ザッ ザッ
WHAT WAS THAT?
I
EX-CUSE ME.
WHAT WAS THAT COM-MOTION JUST NOW?
THE TOWN'S BEEN IN AN UPROAR SINCE MORNING.
I SWEAR... I WONDER WHY WE DIDN'T REALIZE IT ALL THIS TIME.
ARE YOU FROM OUT OF TOWN?
WELL, MY GOOD-NESS ...
YOU'VE COME AT A BAD TIME.
BATHUMP
SHE WAS A WITCH.

BATHUMP
THIS WOMAN WHO CAME TO SELL APPLES AT THE MARKETPLACE WAS A WITCH
EVERYONE WHO ATE THEM DIED
BAT-HUMP
BUT THEY GOT HER SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE SQUARE
I SWEAR, IT'S SOME SCARY STUFF
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, HECTOR.
IT SEEMS THIS WITCH WAS ALWAYS LIVING ON TOP OF THE HILL.

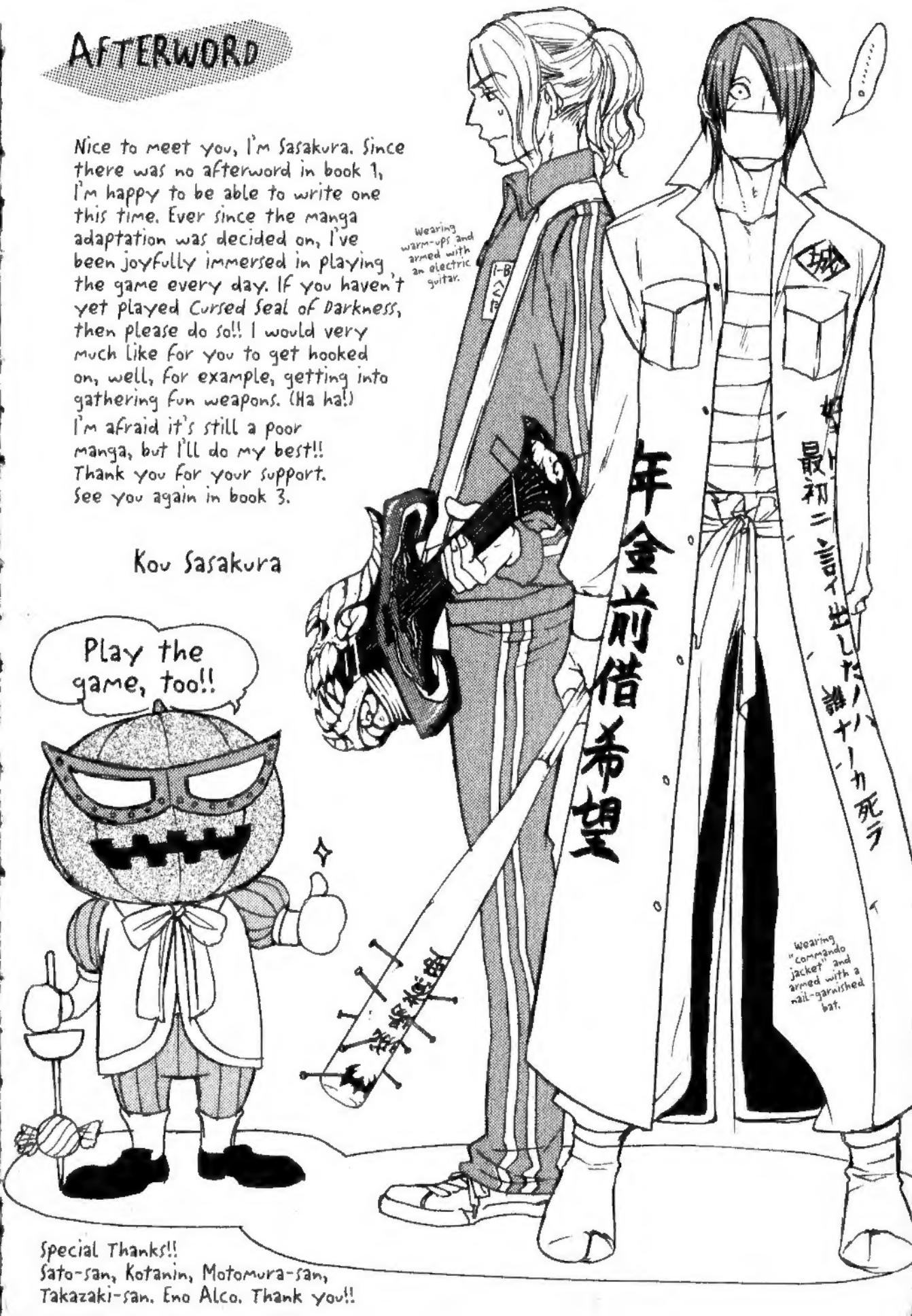
ROSALEE!!

To be continued...

# AFTERWORD

Nice to meet you, I'm Sasakura. Since there was no afterword in book 1, I'm happy to be able to write one this time. Ever since the manga adaptation was decided on, I've been joyfully immersed in playing the game every day. If you haven't yet played *Cursed Seal of Darkness*, then please do so!! I would very much like for you to get hooked on, well, for example, getting into gathering fun weapons. (Ha ha!)
I'm afraid it's still a poor manga, but I'll do my best!! Thank you for your support. See you again in book 3.

Kou Sasakura


Play the game, too!!
Wearing warm-ups and armed with an electric guitar.
年金前借希望
Wearing "commando jacket" and armed with a nail-garnished bat.

Special Thanks!!
Sato-san, Kotanin, Motomura-san, Takazaki-san, Eno Alco. Thank you!!

IN THE NEXT

WITH HIS NEWFOUND SENSE OF HAPPINESS AND COMFORT CRUMBLING ALL AROUND HIM, HIS PAST BECKONS...TORTURING HIS SOUL. WILL HECTOR CONTINUE TO SIDE WITH HUMANITY THAT BURNED ROSALEE AT THE STAKE, OR WILL HE RETURN TO THE DARKNESS IN HIS GRIEF?